

December 12, 2021

Los Angeles County Redistricting Commissioners,

Dear Honorable Commissioners,

Today, you are considering only one map – F4. When I was at your last meeting on Friday, some of you had shown considerable interest in Map OP 101. As of the time that I am writing this, there are now 109 maps in the hub.

My disappointment is great. Early on, I was a big fan of Commissioner Stecher's B series maps. Commissioner Kenney also worked on those maps as well.

But as of now, despite my request for West Hills to be whole, and even after submitting a West Hills Neighborhood Council map to the documents, based on testimony from residents of Lake Manor and the Unincorporated Chatsworth area, both Commissioner Stecher and Commissioner Kenney are taking a significant part of the West San Fernando Valley out of the proposed Supervisorial District 3, and putting them into Supervisorial District 5.

While I understand the concepts of Equal Population and Communities of Interest, there are also the concepts of Contiguous and Compact.

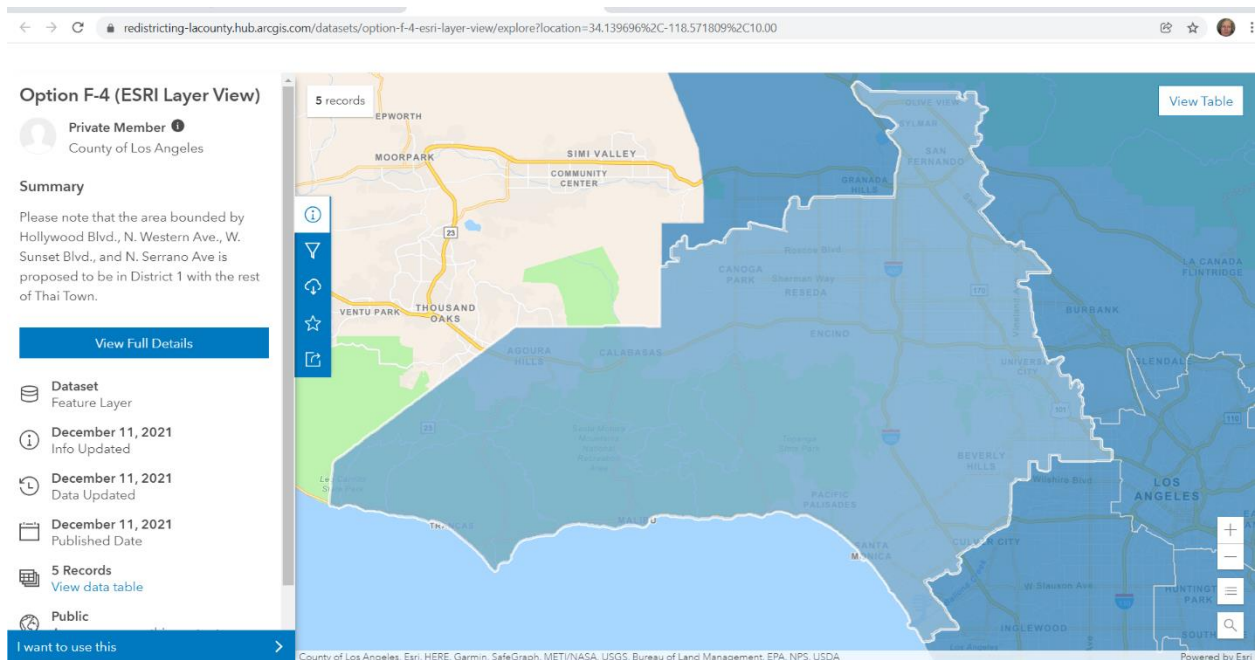
While I have asked for the San Fernando Valley to be in one District, I understand that if you are not going to keep us whole, that there are more Contiguous and Compact ways to add population to the 5th District than taking population from the West San Fernando Valley.

It is my opinion that the people that spoke from Lake Manor and Unincorporated Chatsworth work with their existing Supervisor – Kathryn Barger, I can state for a fact that since 2006 when I first became engaged with the West Hills Neighborhood Council, I have never seen a representative of the 5th District at one of their meetings. You are not supposed to be basing your mapping decisions on a preference for a certain Supervisor. And I believe I have seen contradictory comments – some people say to be split from the rest of the San Fernando Valley, and others say to be with West Hills and Chatsworth.

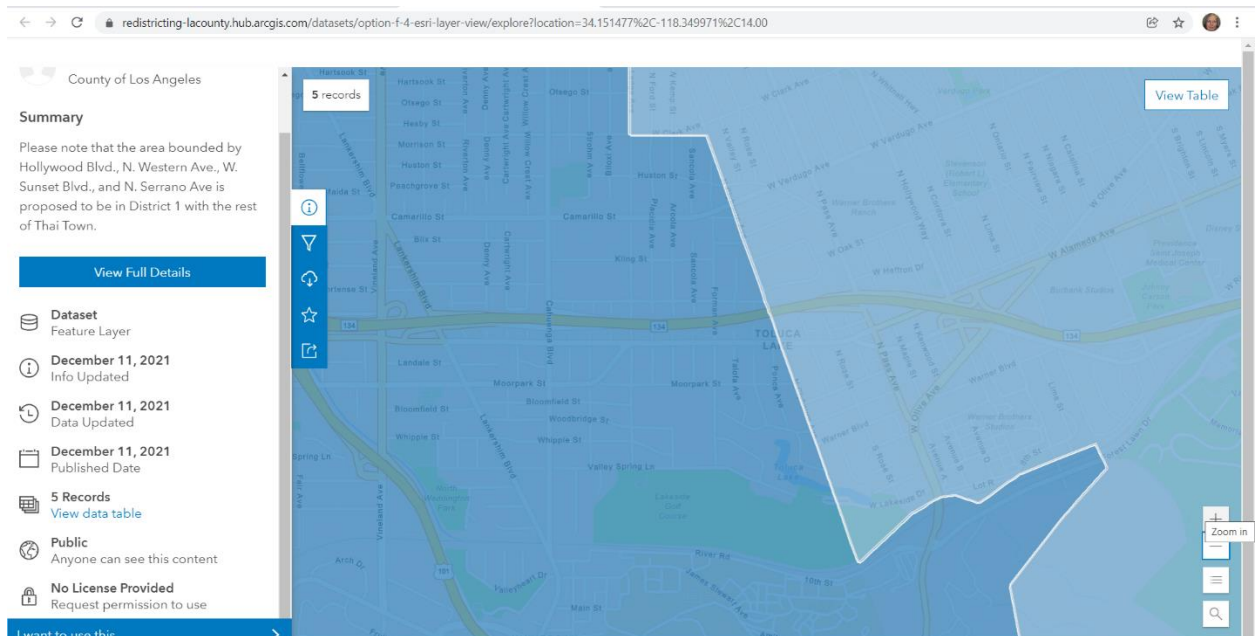
I want to specifically thank Commissioner Franklin for asking the hard question – how many people are there in the San Fernando Valley in these maps? I do not know if she ever got that answer. There was a rough estimate of 70 %. But is that based on population or area?

Before your Saturday meeting, I had intended to submit comments to show the density of the areas that were being removed from the San Fernando Valley with the Maps including F4. I took a series of screen shots from Google maps to show you housing in various parts of the San Fernando Valley.

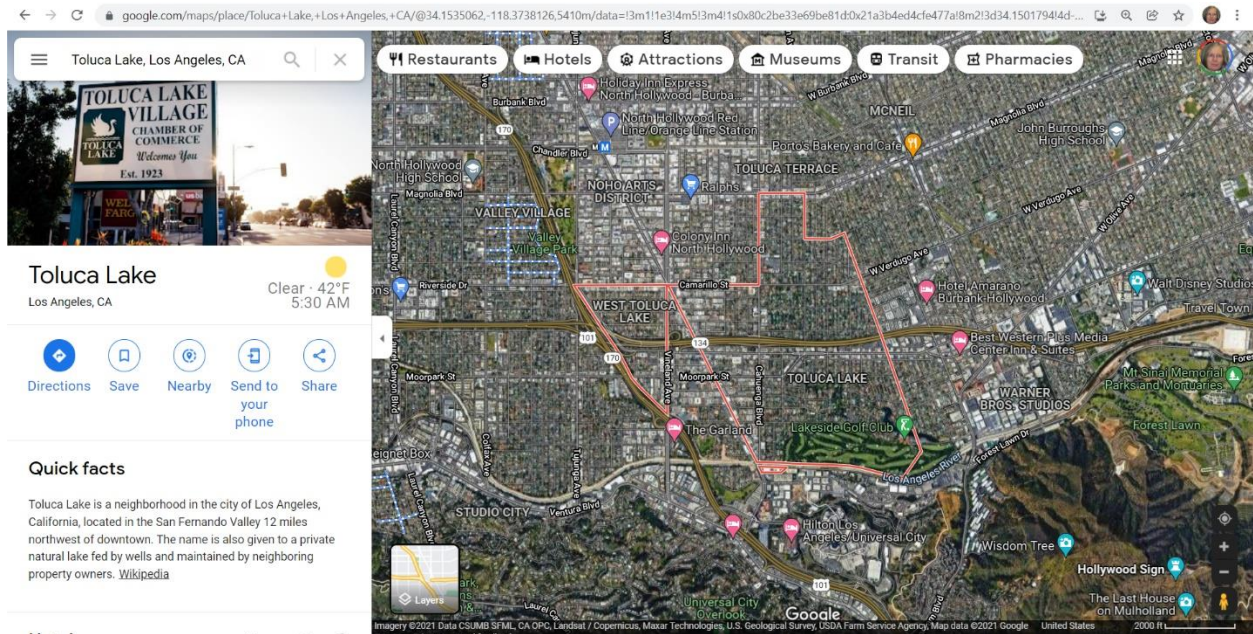
This is the San Fernando Valley from Map F 4:



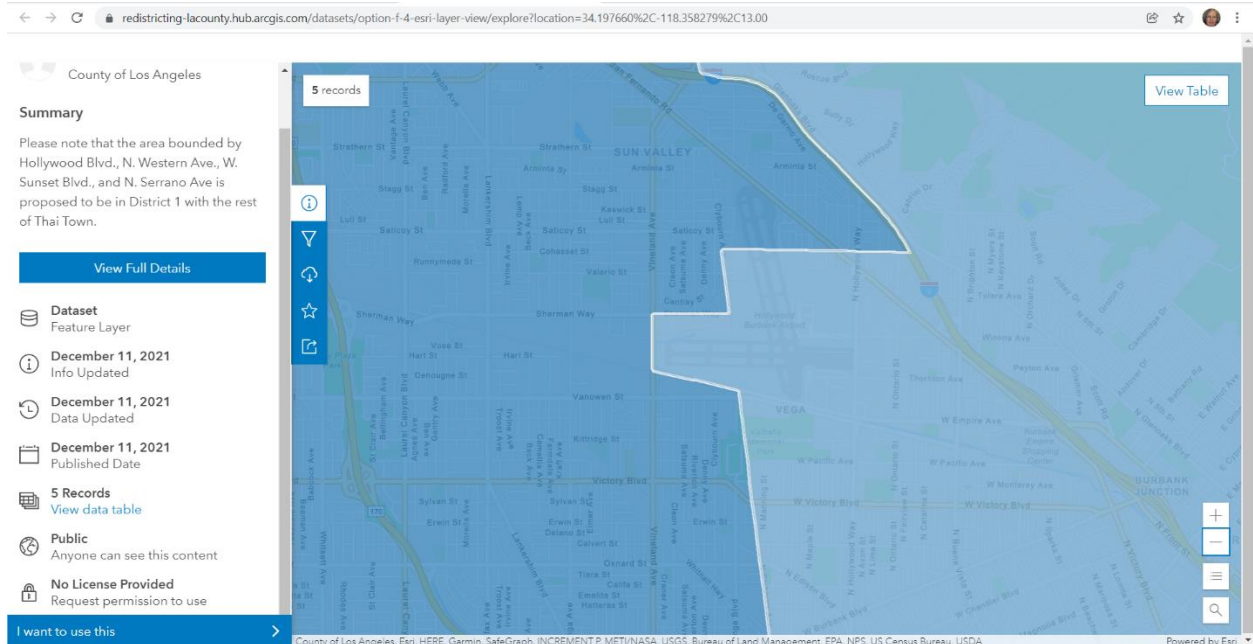
This is the 3rd Supervisorial District in Map F4. It includes Marina del Rey, splits Culver City, and it puts all of Santa Monica, West Los Angeles, Westwood, Beverly Hills, and Hollywood into a map that is supposed to keep much of the San Fernando Valley together. It goes north in this configuration that is now being called the Entertainment District.



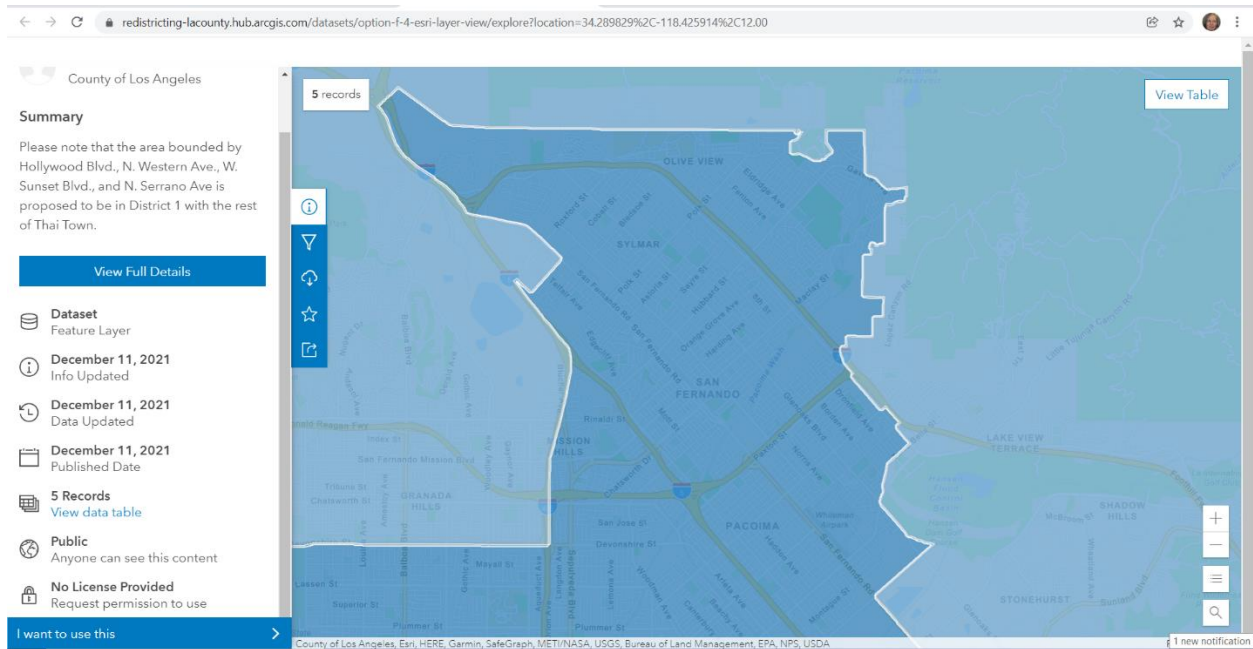
Map F4 splits Toluca Lake. Why can't we see community boundaries on these maps that you have submitted for our review?



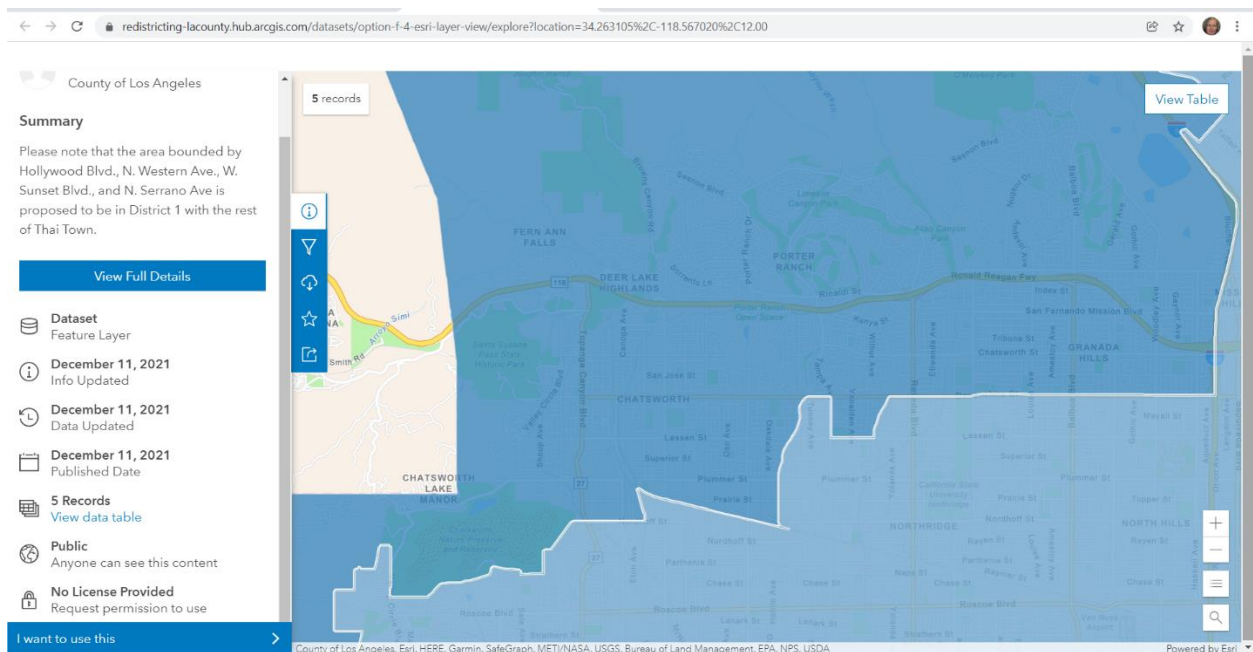
According to Google, these are the boundaries of Toluca Lake.



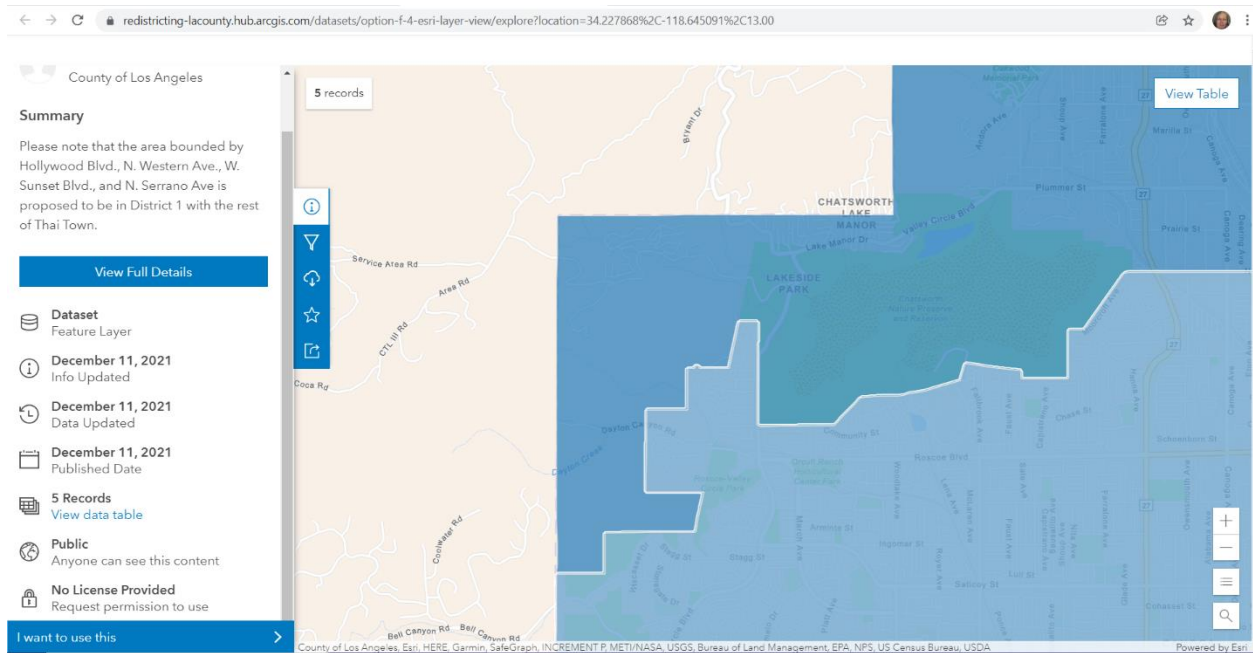
OP F4 splits a Memorial Park south of the Hollywood Burbank Airport. And it splits the airport in the middle of the runway.



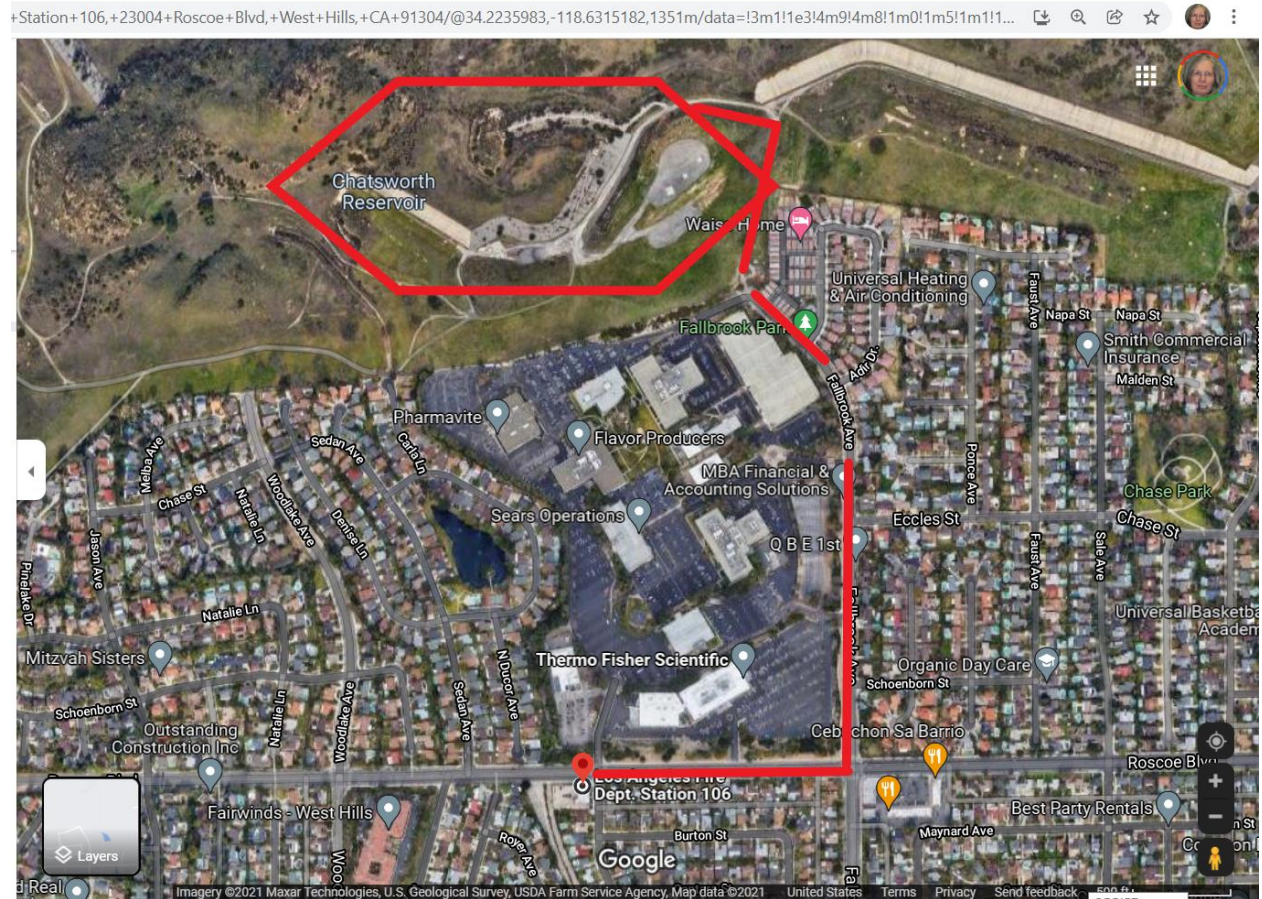
To the north, Sylmar and the Olive View Medical Center and San Fernando are kept in the 3rd District even though they are on the direct route – the 5 and the 210 both go north in this area towards the Santa Clarita Valley. Logically in this area, the area northeast of the 5 freeway would go into the 5th District with its neighbors to the east – Lake View Terrace and Shadow Hills.



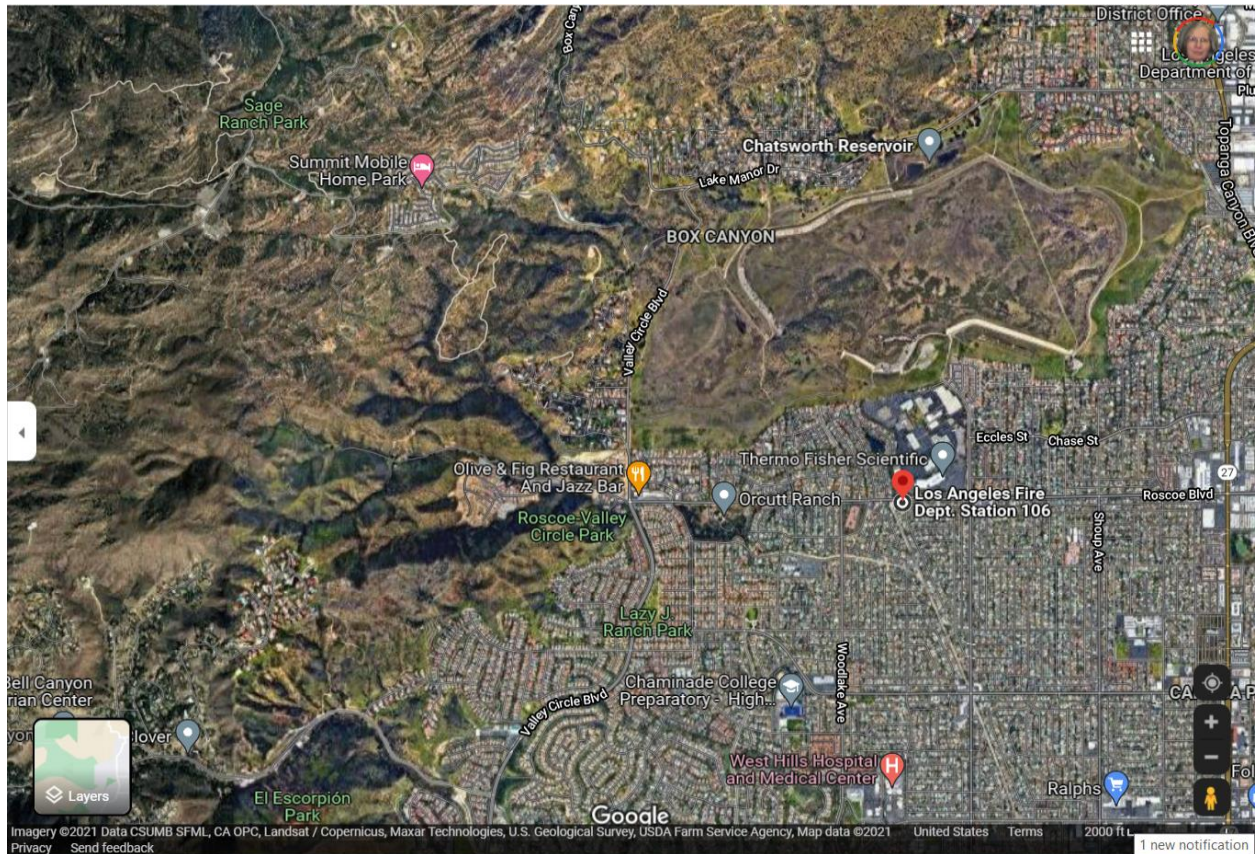
OP F4 Splits West Hills and places it with Chatsworth, Porter Ranch, and Granada Hills in the 5th District even though placing them in the 3rd District would make them more contiguous, and compact.



Map F4 divides the LAFD Fire Station on Roscoe west of Fallbrook from the helipad in the Chatsworth Nature Preserve. It divides West Hills as shown on a previous Neighborhood Council map from a portion of West Hills due west of Nordhoff Street in West Hills to the City line.



This is the map for Station 106 on Roscoe. The LAFD only has to go to Fallbrook and make a left-hand turn. They go to the north end of Fallbrook where there is a locked gate to get access to the Chatsworth Nature Preserve. You have the Nature Preserve in another Supervisorial District.



Your map above gerrymanders the 5th District to drop down and cut through Dayton Canyon and to go south to just north of Bell Canyon Road and Valley Circle Blvd which is seen on the left leading to Bell Canyon on the left. Please notice El Escorpion Park on the lower left side of Valley Circle Blvd.

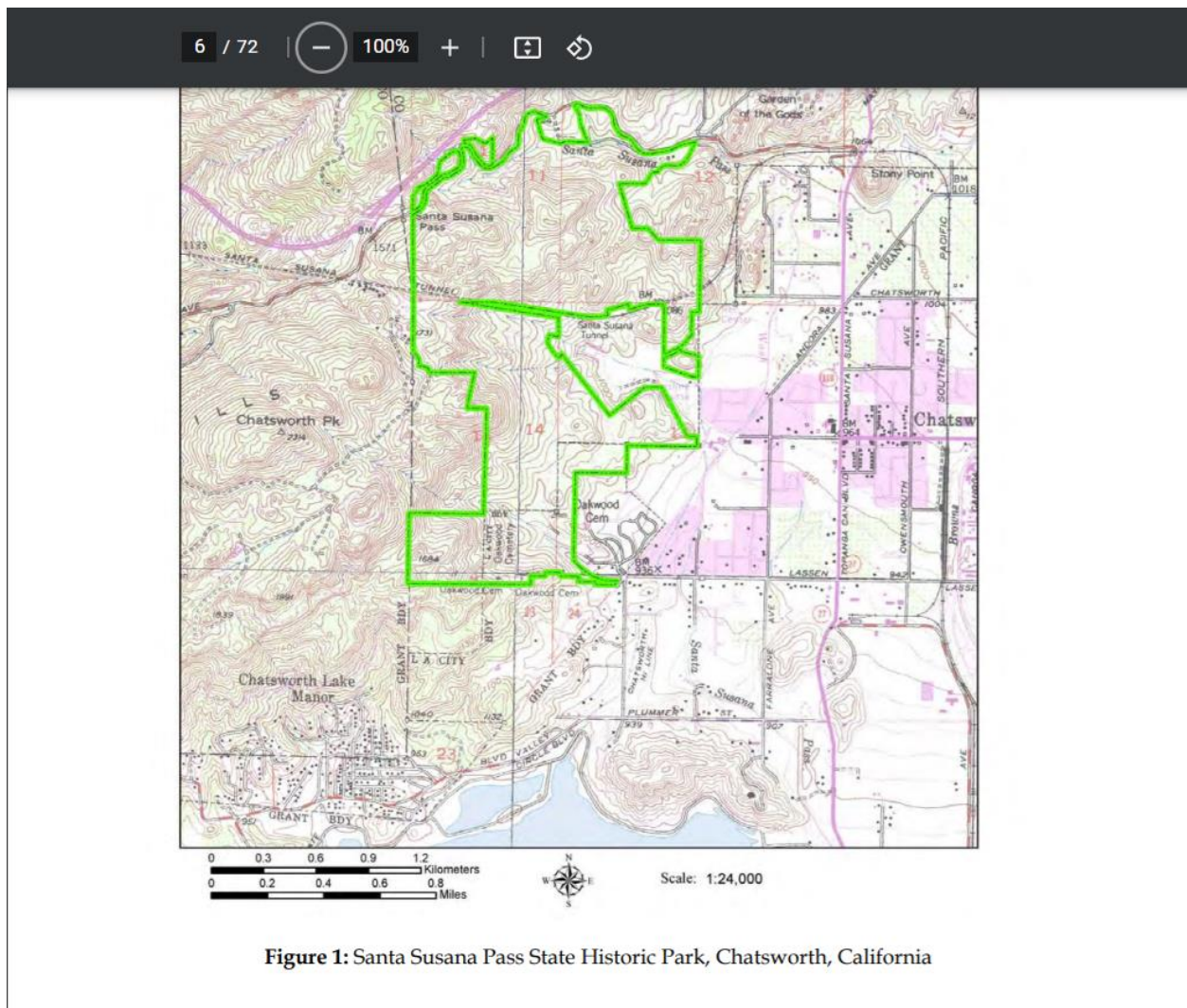
Why is El Escorpion Park of importance. This leads to one of many culturally significant sites in the area of West Hills.

Cultural Significance and the Indigenous People

El Escorpion Park trail takes you to the Cave of Munits – just one of the overlapping tribal areas of this region.

El Escorpion is referenced in the Santa Susana State Park Ethnographic Study.

“Ethnohistoric Overview for the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park Cultural Resources Inventory Project”: <http://www.parks.ca.gov/pages/21299/files/sspsph%20ethnohistory-complete.pdf>



A map of the Santa Susana Pass State Historic Park from the document listed above.

Welcome to “Huwam” aka: Huwam a Chumash name for this area of West Hills:

“UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING ETHNOLINGUISTIC AFFILIATIONS OF RANCHERÍAS LISTED AT MISSION SAN FERNANDO Establishing equivalences among placenames given in different native languages does not necessarily resolve the question regarding which language was spoken by the majority of a particular ranchería’s inhabitants. An example is the well-known ranchería called El Escorpión, which was located at the west end of the San Fernando Valley between Santa Susana and Calabasas. This ranchería was called Huwam by the Ventureño Chumash but was most often referred to as “Jucjauybit” or “Jucjaubit” in the registers of Mission San Fernando. Hill (1993) reconstructs the original name as being something like Hukxa’oynga.¹ This name was in the Gabrielino (Tongva) language, suggesting that El Escorpión was inhabited by speakers of the Fernandean dialect of Gabrielino. However, others have noted that some of the men’s personal names that were recorded in the San Fernando baptismal records from El

Escorpión appear to have been Chumash in origin (Brown 1967; Forbes 1966; King and Johnson 1999: 88- 89, 91-92)."

" It may well be that native speakers of both languages resided at El Escorpión, creating a multilingual community (Brown 1967: 8; Forbes 1966: 138; King and Johnson 1999:88-89, 91-92). Indeed, Sétimo López told Harrington that Espíritu, a lifelong resident of El Escorpión, "and all he family talked V[entureño] as well as F[ernandeño]" (Harrington 1986, Rl. 106, Fr. 81). Espíritu's father, Odón Chihuya, although apparently born at Humaliwo (Malibu), was the son an El Escorpión father. Odón was one of the original Indian grantees of Rancho El Escorpión there (Cohen 1989; Gaye 1965; Johnson 1997b: 265-270, 1999b: 339-344; Phillips 1993)."

This area is a Cultural District: <https://burroflatsculturaldistrict.org/>

Burro Flats is the name of a historic site on the Santa Susana Field Laboratory property. It is on the National Register of Historic Places.

This area of West Hills, Unincorporated West Hills and north through the Chatsworth Nature Preserve and throughout Chatsworth, there are known archaeological sites that are not subject to public records requests by law.

CEQA, NEPA, and Section 106:

CEQA is the California Environmental Quality Act: <https://opr.ca.gov/ceqa/>

NEPA is the National Environmental Protection Act:

<https://www.nps.gov/subjects/nepa/policy.htm>

Section 106 - <https://www.achp.gov/digital-library-section-106-landing/section-106-applicant-toolkit>

CASSP is the California Archaeological Site Stewardship Program: <https://www.cassp.org/>

Indigenous people aka: Native Americans

I first became interested in the Native American Community when I was in the 6th grade in Illinois. The local tribe there was the Winnebago tribe. It was a wonderful 6th grade experience to not only learn about the people who once inhabited that area, but to learn what foods they used, how they started fires, how they fished, etc.

I studied both Cultural and Physical Anthropology as an undergraduate in college. Cultural Anthropology was one of my favorite courses. And as the wife of an anthropologist, we would often watch movies that I would recommend for his students to watch for his classes.

I learned about the local tribes as my older son went through school and he had similar experiences around the 4th grade? They would be taken to the Chumash Museum in Ventura, and I would go on these field trips with my children.

They also were taken into the Santa Monica Mountain area to learn about the foods and the lifestyles of the Chumash. Only later in life did I learn about the overlapping tribes of this area.

As I read documents relative to the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL), I learned about archaeological sites which were not referenced by location, but there was an indication that there were sites in the various areas of the SSFL site. I asked back in about 2008 why a full archaeological survey of the site had not been done, and a Boeing Manager told me that no one had ever told them to do one.

In recent years, the Santa Ynez Band of Chumash (the closest Federally recognized tribe) has declared the Santa Susana Field Laboratory (SSFL) to be a Sacred Site. They have asked NASA SSFL to take sufficient steps to get the whole site listed as a “Traditional Cultural Property.”

As I became more aware of the significant nature of the historical and cultural history of this site, I arranged for my husband and I to be trained by the California State Parks Archaeological Stewardship Program (CASSP). I did this not to monitor a specific site, but in order to protect the sites at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory and the surrounding areas.

The Santa Susana Field Laboratory roads lead directly to the west to the Chumash Cultural Museum in Thousand Oaks. The areas of the West San Fernando Valley south through Calabasas and to Malibu are all a part of the Chumash range. This is an area of significance for the Ventureño Chumash people.

This area is an overlapping area with the Fernandeno / Tataviam people. Malibu is known as Humaliwo:

Humaliwo: An Ethnographic Overview of the Chumash in Malibu:

https://www.parks.ca.gov/?page_id=24435

My husband and I are both Section 106 Consulting Parties for NASA SSFL and the Department of Energy (DOE) at the SSFL:

I did a random Google search to show a list of Consulting Parties for NASA SSFL with my name listed:

<https://ssfl.msfc.nasa.gov/Files/Documents/Local/2014/20140213-Meeting-Notes.pdf>

On this link, both my husband Emeritus Professor of Anthropology – Bruce M. Rowe of Los Angeles Pierce College and I are listed as Consulting Parties:

<https://ssfl.msfc.nasa.gov/Files/Documents/Local/2013/20130315-Meeting-Notes.pdf>

This map shows the ranges of the Chumash, Tataviam, and the Tongva in particular whose ranges overlapped more in the Southern and western part of Los Angeles County.

I wrote this article to get people to support the Santa Susana Field Laboratory not only as a Traditional Cultural Property, but also as a potential UNESCO World Heritage site:

“The Santa Susana Field Laboratory Should be Listed as a UNESCO World Heritage Site”:

<https://www.citywatchla.com/index.php/cw/los-angeles/20112-the-santa-susana-field-laboratory-should-be-listed-as-a-unesco-world-heritage-site>

“Location: Proposed Burro Flats Cultural District, generally located at the Santa Susana Field Laboratory at 5800 Woolsey Canyon Road, Canoga Park, CA 91304 in the Santa Susana Mountain Range (unincorporated Ventura County). Action: Prepare a report that evaluates whether the proposed Burro Flats Cultural District meets the criteria for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places in accordance with the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, as amended.”

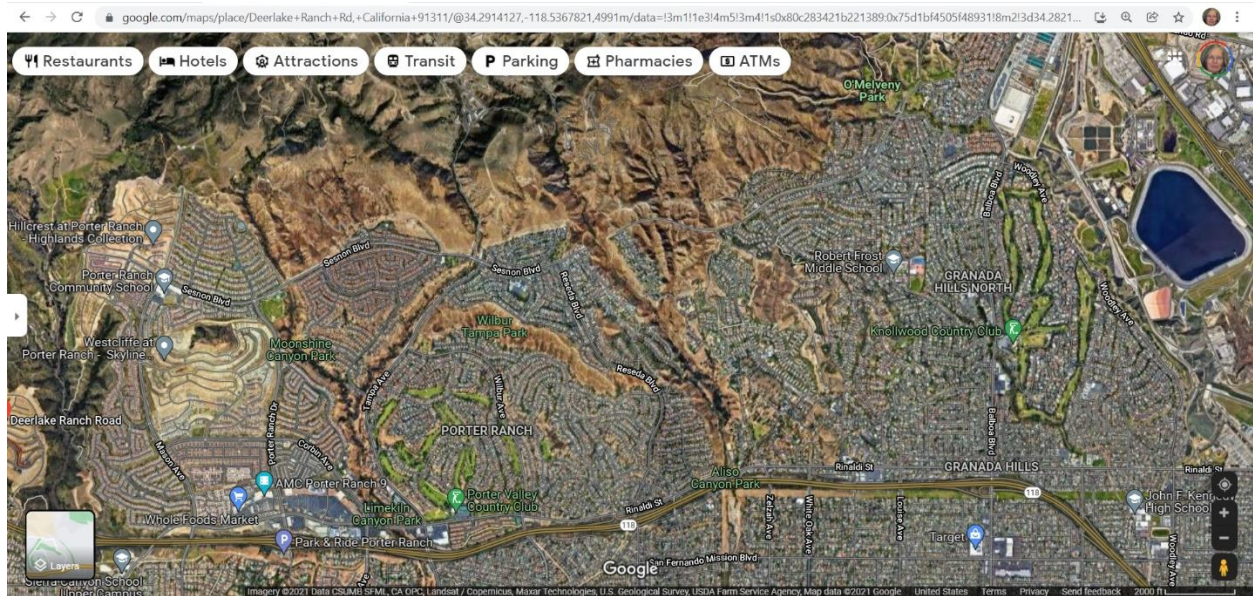
A Traditional Cultural Property (TCP) is a property that is eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places (NRHP) based on its associations with the cultural practices, traditions, beliefs, lifeways, arts, crafts, or social institutions of a living community. TCPs are rooted in a traditional community's history and are important in maintaining the continuing cultural identity of the community. The cultural practices or beliefs that give a TCP its significance are, in many cases, still observed at the time a TCP is considered for inclusion in the NRHP. Because of this, it is sometimes perceived that the practices or beliefs themselves, not the property, make up the TCP. While the beliefs or practices associated with a TCP are of central importance, the NRHP does not include intangible resources. The TCP must be a physical property or place--that is, a district, site, building, structure, or object.”

In Conclusion:

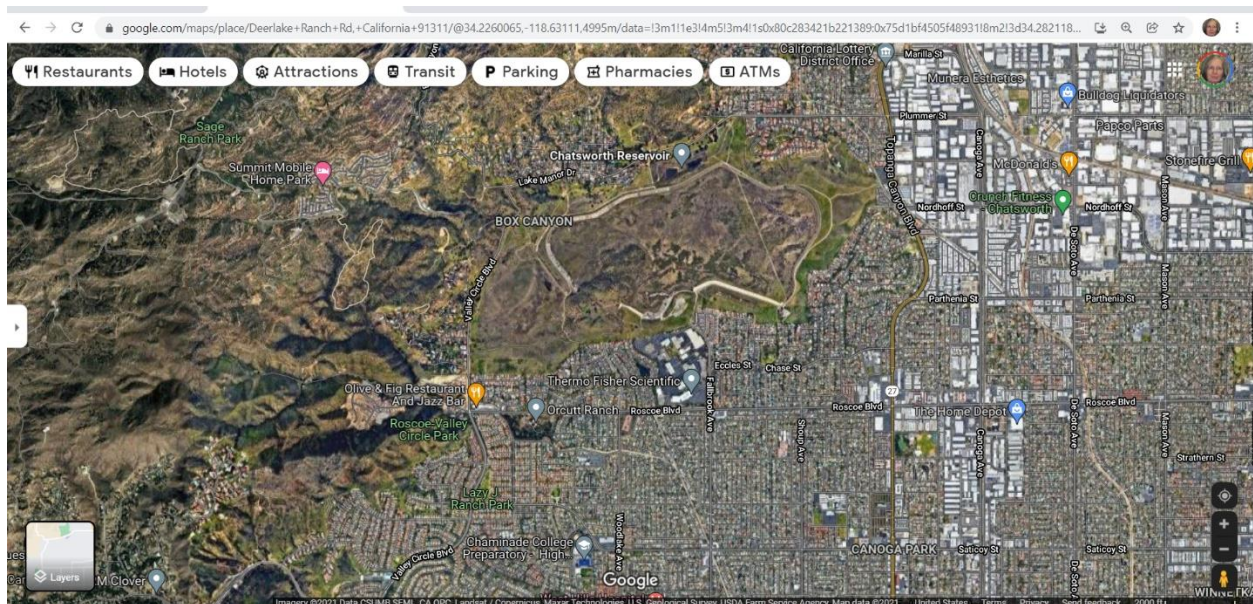
The point of my maps and discussion on the Indigenous people was to show the significance of keeping the West San Fernando Valley united with the areas to the south including Topanga, Malibu, and to the Pacific Palisades as well as north of Malibu because this was the Ventureño Chumash range. On the Consulting Parties list above you will see a number of the Tribal Elders of the Chumash, Tataviam, and Fernandeno tribes.

We work with Council District 3 in West Hills when there are known cultural sites that need to be protected. Due to this range – the ocean to Chatsworth, west to Simi Valley and Thousand Oaks in Ventura County, it is important that we have one Supervisor covering this culturally significant range and staff to bring the significance of a property to the attention of that Supervisor.

For that reason, the issues related to fire stations, wildfire protection, and Neighborhood Council boundaries, could you please draw the northern part of the West San Fernando Valley to include the areas shown on this Google map of the area:



For Commissioner Franklin – this is one area of homes that is being removed by Map F3 and F4 north of the 118 Freeway – Porter Ranch and Granada Hills.



This map shows the West San Fernando Valley. I have shown in earlier maps what is cut out of West Hills. You can see the density of the areas south of the Chatsworth Nature Preserve which includes West Hills to Topanga Canyon Blvd on Roscoe, and Canoga Park to the east of Topanga on Roscoe Blvd, and part of Winnetka.

There are now 109 maps at 9:00 am 12 / 12/ 2021

Respectfully submitted,

Christine L. Rowe

